

For the Saturday Gazette.

VERBATIM REPORTING.  
BY JAMES B. STEVENS.

It is told of a musical prodigy, that he obtained permission to hear the private rehearsal of a piece annually celebrated at Rome, but a copy of which was sedulously withheld from the public, and so great were his genius and memory that after thus once listening he was able to throw the entire symphony upon paper, and at the public celebration a few corrections were all that was needed to place the system complete in his possession.

The ability which excites wonder in this musical field is more than rivaled in the ease with which any public speaker is reported *verbiter* for the modern press. If Disraeli and Gladstone draw swords oratory, every flourish, and parry, and thrust, and return, is displayed the next morning in the exact words and freshness of grace of the recontre. How different were the days when Dr. Samuel Johnson sat in his private room writing out, from the rough sketches and verbal reports of those who had heard "Parliamentary Reports," and putting into the mouth of each speaker such good sense and grand utterances as made an uninitiated critic declare it to be an Augustine age of British eloquence, and that every speaker was a Cicero.

But reporters who can create are not always to be had, and were they, we prefer that a Johnson and a Dickens should speak to their proper work, and leave the task of photographing public debate to the dexterity of manual experts. If the "orator of the day" wants favors of minds abler than his own, he now seeks it in the preparation of his speech. After its utterance it is the public property, with no power of recall.

Only within a few years has this art been perfected and brought under service to the press and the public. With its aid how numerous are the attendants at "Plymouth Pulpit" and "Spurgeon's Sermons" stop not at the Atlantic. Had we a full photographic report, with which to compare the meagre unfinished outlines that alone have come down to us of the public addresses of Whitfield and Summerfield, the fame of the eloquence which the father never could forget, might now be something more than a tradition. Of Patrick Henry, it is said that under the fascination of his oratory the world would have been thrown down his penitent and in despair—and so the world lost it! Fancy Graham or Killwood, or Parkhurst, to now throw down the pen in despair at any burst of eloquence, human or angelic, that came to them in articulate English!

Verbatim reports of every note worthy public utterance, now find room in the "blanket sheets" of our great cities. In the speeches thus reported of those identified with every great movement or principle, can the general reader, ignoring for the nonce the well-written, pleasant, but often partial or partisan *editorial* summary (parlor, O king!) find information accurate and abundant on questions of public interest. And there will the future historian find materials for the study of events in each phase of their intellectual development. The reporter is the "power behind the throne" to whom we owe this wealth.

This change, while it widens the domain of any public speaker who can catch the public eye, increases his risks as it enlarges his power. Let him make capital in one section by an appeal to local interests or limited prejudices; thousands in every other section of the country will ever after quote his words and hold him responsible for them. But let him risk above class interests or partisan treachery and the continent welcomes in him the man of broad views and national sympathies. The one lecture of Abraham Lincoln in Cooper Hall—"What the Fathers thought about Slavery," placed within the reach of every reader the means of judging whether the frontier lawyer was a narrow minded extremist or the contrary, and helped make him President.

The curiosity to know something of the machinery which works out a public convenience or pleasure is not gratified by a general access to the reporter's note-book, and were it so, an array of puzzling dots and angles and straightlets and flourishes more curious and bewildering than the telegrapher's notes would be seen. But the art is open to all learners and has claims upon general attention above mere curiosity. As a beautiful art, obtainable with no great effort, useful to all, and opening to the adept the way to a lucrative profession, it has a value to every individual of literary taste or business energies. While the subtlety and speed which take again captive by looks the "birds of passage" set free by a rapid speaker, require a fair degree of practice, a less condensed style, yet greatly more rapid than long hand, and available for diary, memoranda, correspondence, and all private writing, is attainable in a comparatively short time.

The *ghostr-had* art now presents claims greater than ever before to a place in the grammar school or academy. Many have mastered it as an addition to their college studies, and others amid the engagements of professional life. How much better to give so valuable an acquisition a regular and acknowledged place in the curriculum of youthful study, and so render it available at the start of a literary career. When the attractions that heretofore have charmed the self-taught shall be enforced by school discipline and class drill, there will exist no cause why each graduate should fail to receive with his diploma the certificate of his ability as a *verbiter reporter*. Yet long before great credit is reaped in the power of constant value. Not every horse is a Darter, yet the species has a market price; the lowest grade, and he who owns a photographic horse, however slow, will not be apt to travel much foot.

One great benefit resulting to the student from an acquaintance with phonetic shorthand must not be overlooked. As an art, it is founded upon the science of phonetics, and so supplies an initial want of the scholar in giving him familiarity with the elements of the orthography, articulation and pronunciation of our own language, and aiding also in the acquisition of any other—the laws of euphony which affect the inflection of all languages, and the principles of comparative philology, "the newest born of the sciences," yet of precious habits and tendencies, resting mainly upon a phonetic foundation—so that rules and principles which are obscure or intelligible to one who sees language only, as it is disguised by the Roman letters, become intuitive of feeling, almost of instinct, to one accustomed to deal with sounds as facts in themselves, with mutual relations and harmonies independent of all alphabets. Short-hand has a scientific basis, it stands upon the same firm ground as do the other departments of the study of language.

It would be ungrateful to close without naming the men to whose genius and labors we are principally indebted for the present (seemingly) perfection of the art.

Isaac Pitman, of England, who discovered the adaptation of a few geometric lines and curves to represent the consonantal framework of speech, leaving (as in Hebrew) the vowel dots to adorn or not the page as the writer pleases, and Andrew J. Graham, of New York, the unrivaled publisher of phonographic text books and serials, who has filled up the outlines with a skill and perfection of detail, and a daring in wholesale expeditions at abbreviations, which please not less than the general system and philosophy, thus rendered practically available.

## MARRIED.

DOLTON—HARRISON.—At New York City, April 27th, by the Rev. Charles E. Knox, Mr. Charles H. Dolton of Trenton, N. J., to Miss Phoebe A. Harrison of Bloomfield, N. J.

## DIED.

BECK.—In Bloomfield, April 23, Mary, wife of Jacob Beck, in the 50th year of her age.

ROUABUD.—In Bloomfield, April 29th Arthur Elwood, infant son of George and Jennie A. Rouabud, aged 3 months and 27 days.

FORNOFF.—In Bloomfield, April 25th, Willie, infant son of Wm. and Kate Fornoff, aged 25 days.

ROOT.—In Bloomfield, April 29th, Jas. Hutchinson, infant son of J. H. and Jane C. Root, aged 10 months and 16 days.

HALEY.—At Aiken, S. C., April 22d, Emma M. Haley, daughter of the late Thos and Mrs. S. A. Haley, and sister of the Rev. Chas. T. Haley, pastor of the Roseville Presbyterian Church.

LYON.—In Newark, April 28th, Lulu F., daughter of Albert D. and Maggie Lyon.

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Feb. 22-1

## SEALED PROPOSALS

Will be received by the subscriber, until 7 o'clock P. M., May 6, 1874, for the working and grading of Union St. Montclair, from Fullerton Ave., west to Montclair Ave.—about 6,600 cubic yards to be moved—according to the plan of the subscriber.

The sale under the above stated will stand adjourned to Saturday, 3d May 1874 at T. Taylor's Hotel, in Jersey City, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

WILLIAM PATERSON,  
Master in Chancery of N. J.

marksmen

E. T. GOULD

For the Town Committee of Montclair.

May 3

## MASTER'S SALE.

IN CHANCERY OF NEW JERSEY

Between Abram S. Hewitt, Complainant and the Montclair Railway Company, and others, Defendants. P. F. F. for sale of mortgaged premises.

The sale under the above stated will stand adjourned to Saturday, 3d May 1874 at T. Taylor's Hotel, in Jersey City, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

WILLIAM PATERSON,  
Master in Chancery of N. J.

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NEW STORE

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and dealer in every variety of

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Feb. 22-

J. C. DOREMUS & SON

DEALERS IN

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PROVISIONS, FLOUR, FEED and MEAL,

CROCKERY, WOODEN WARE &c.,

Canned Fruit, Cress and Blackwell's Pickles,

BLOOMFIELD AVENUE,  
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Feb. 22-

SMITH & TOWNLEY.  
WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS,

AND DEALERS IN

BROOKLYN WHITE LEAD.

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OILS &c.

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NEWARK, N. J.

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